

**Remarks**

At the time of the Board's Decision:

- Claims 1-18, 20-34, 36-43, and 45-48 stood pending, and claims 19, 35, and 44 stood canceled; and
- Of the pending claims:
  - claims 5-13, 15, 20-27, and 36 were allowable,
  - claims 3, 4, 14, 18, 28, 30-34, 37-43, and 45-48 stood objected to but allowable if rewritten in independent form, and
  - claims 1, 2, 16, 17, and 29 stood rejected.

In the present Amendment:

- The rejected claims 1, 2, 16, 17, and 29 have been canceled; and
- Of the objected to but allowable claims:
  - Claims 3, 4, 14, 18, 28, 30, 32-34, and 45 have been rewritten in independent form;
    - Claim 31 depends from allowable claim 30, and claims 46-48 depend from allowable claim 4; and
  - Claims 37-43 have been amended to depend from allowed independent claim 36 to correct an apparent typographical error.

For the reasons explained above, all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and should be allowed.

Charge any excess fees or apply any credits to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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